

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
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R 051437Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4626
INFO USDOE WASHDC
USDOE GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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USIAEA

DEPT PASS S/AS AND IO/SCT

E.O. 11652 ./A
TAGS: AORG, PARM, IAEA, CA, SZ
SUBJECT: SUCCESSOR TO DR. ROMETSCH, IAEA DDG FOR SAFE-
GUARDS

1. DURING MY CALL ON DIRGEN EKLUND JANUARY 3 TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED STATE 306092, DR. EKLUND INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY DR. ROMETSCH IN CONFIDENCE IN NOVEMBER THAT ROMETSCH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN WITH THE AGENCY BEYOND THE EXPIRATION OF HIS CURRENT CONTRACT ON MAY 31, 1978. ROMETSCH TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE OFFER FROM AN ASSOCIATION OF SWISS ELECTRIC UTILITIES WHICH HE FELT HE COULD NOT REFUSE.

2. I TOLD THE DIRGEN THAT I PERSONALLY REGRETTED DR. ROMETSCH'S DECISION AS I FELT HE HAD DONE A PARTICULARLY
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OUTSTANDING JOB IN EXPLAINING IAEA SAFEGUARDS IN A WIDE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND HAD THEREBY EARNED UNIVERSAL RESPECT BOTH FOR HIMSELF AND THE AGENCY.

3. DR. EKLUND SAID THAT TWO NAMES HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS, THE FIRST BEING JOHN NENNEKENS (CANADA) AND THE SECOND CLAUDE ZANGGER (SWITZERLAND). HE

SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR EROFEEV AND THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN HIS SIXTEEN YEARS THAT HE RECALLED THE SOVITS BEING PREPARED TO SUPPORT A WESTERN CANDIDATE (JENNEKENS) FOR A HIGH-LEVEL JENNEKENS HAD BEEN FAVORABLE AND I PRESUMED HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE HIS AVAILABILITY.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE DIRGEN TELEPHONED TO JENNEKENS DIRECTLY AND WAS ASSURED BY JENNEKENS THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DECISION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER UNTIL AFTER HE TALKS PERSONALLY WITH THE DIRGEN FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN VIENNA JANUARY 12 TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SAGSI MEETING CONVENING JANUARY 16.

5. I HAVE ALSO TALKED TO CANADIAN AMBASSADOR CARTER AT LENGTH AND CARTER IS CONCERNED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MAY BE RELUCTANT TO RELEASE JENNEKENS SINCE PENDING LEGISLATION IN THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT WILL INVOLVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CANADIAN REGULATORY BODY SIMILAR TO NRC, AND THAT JENNEKENS WOULD BE A LEADING CANDIDATE TO HEAD SUCH AN AGENCY. CARTER IS, HOWEVER, CABLEING OTTAWA URGING THAT JENNEKENS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS CRITICAL IAEA POST.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON CANDIDACY OF JENNEKENS FOR THIS POST. I FEEL IT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO FUTURE OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS THAT AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIVIDUAL WHO IS WELL AWARE OF THE PAST PROBLEMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE DIRGEN AND THE DEPARTMENT, BE APPOINTED TO THIS POSITION. I BELIEVE JENNEKENS IS AS QUALIFIED A CANDIDATE AS WE COULD HOPE TO FIND AND WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ZANGGER OR ANY OTHER OF WHOM I AM AWARE. THERE IS THE FURTHER PLUS THAT HE HAS FULL SOVIET SUPPORT.

7. IF DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO ENDORSE JENNEKENS, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT OFFICIAL APPROACH BE MADE TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO URGE THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT INDICATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO RELEASE JENNEKENS FOR THIS IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT.

8. FYI, I UNDERSTAND JENNEKENS HAS SOME PERSONAL RESERVATIONS REGARDING THIS POST BUT FEELS THAT WE MUST LEAVE THESE UP TO THE DIRGEN TO RESOLVE WITH HIM. END FYI. STONE

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